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DOJ SUIT CHARGES IMPROPER STORAGE OF PCB (Cont.)

in Scranton and asked for an injunction to require the company to stop disposal of PCBs at site and to clean it up.

DOJ's suit maintained that Lehigh, which services electrical equipment, including transformers and capacitors containing PCB-laden insulating fluid, had spilled or drained PCBs at an Old Forge, Pa. facility by the banks of the Lackawanna River. Material was not stored in a facility with a diked, impermeable concrete base in a weather-proof building, as required by EPA regulations, according to DOJ. PCBs allegedly seeped into the ground and oozed toward the river, with no barrier existing to prevent them from entering river's waters.

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RESEARCHERS SAY LAND TREATMENT PROVES EASY, CHEAP WAY TO NEUTRALIZE WASTES

Land treatment for hazardous waste is the cheapest, safest and easiest way to dispose of hazardous materials, researchers at North Carolina State University contend.

The technology consists of a soil-plant system, where toxic wastes are transferred from a storage facility to a specially selected land site. Wastes are plowed into the soil and then various crops are planted. Researchers maintain that chemical and biological reactions in land treatment will stabilize some of the wastes, while other parts of the wastes will be absorbed and fixed.

Wastes which may be land treated will include effluents, polynuclear aromatics, vinyl chloride, toluene, nitrosamines, dyes, phenolics and plasticizers.

In research, scientists have been applying various solutions of chemicals and then planting such crops as soybeans, corn, fescue and wheat.

Researchers insist that the land treatment system will be low-energy use and will cost less than landfills and be more effective. Land treatment will leave no pollution side-effects, scientists contend, and the sites may be farmed in the future without danger from pollutants.

Paper on the subject was recently presented at the American Chemical Society's national meeting in Atlanta, Ga. Research team includes Drs. Jang Szu Su, Michael R. Overcash, Jerome B. Weber, William P. Tucker and Philip W. Westerman.

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CHEMICAL CONTROL CORP. OFFICIALS FACING TRIALS IN FEDERAL, N.J. COURTS

Court proceedings at the Federal and state levels have started against three Chemical Control Corp. officials who are charged with various illegalities in disposal of hazardous materials at Elizabeth, N.J.

The three men -- John Albert, 45, Eugene Conlon Sr., 45, both of North Brunswick; and Michael Colleton, 42, of Ridgewood -- have finished their third week in U.S. District Court in Trenton on charges of mail fraud. Trial, being heard by Judge Dickinson R. Debevoise, will likely last several more weeks, an attorney told HWN.

All three men were arraigned April 6 in state supreme court in Elizabeth on charges of knowingly placing drums of hazardous waste near the Elizabeth River and endangering public health. That trial may start in May, although defendants' attorneys may ask that the case be moved to Trenton for trial.

A state civil suit against the three men, Chemical Control's former president William Carracino, and Robert and Charles Day, Colleton's brothers-in-law, is scheduled to start Oct. 5, 1981. In that case, defendants are charged with violating state environmental statutes in allegedly creating a hazardous dump in Elizabeth.

In mail fraud trial defendants are accused of using the mail to deceive state environmental protection officials about their disposal operations. A 25-count indictment against the men charges that they solicited business from several chemical companies to dispose of waste at Chemical Control Corp. site, which was licensed by the state for hazardous waste disposal. Waste was allegedly stored at another site, A-Z Chemical Resource Recovery Inc. in New Brunswick, according to indictment.

In Elizabeth's state supreme court, defendants were charged last week with polluting the Elizabeth River through an underground pipe system from 1972-79 and for releasing pollutants into the ground from 1977-1979.